

WILLIAM M. KITTS.

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APRIL 25, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. SNOOK, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 12576.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12576) granting an increase of pension to William M. Kitts, submit the following report:

This bill proposes to increase the pension of the soldier named therein from \$12 to \$50 per month.

This soldier, now 65 years of age, served as a private in Company G, Second Tennessee Cavalry, from October 1, 1862, to July 6, 1865, when honorably discharged by reason of the termination of the war, and is pensioned at \$12 per month under the act of June 27, 1890, for disease of brain (dementia) resulting from injury to head.

The soldier filed a claim for pension under the general law on the ground of disease of lungs and nerves, rheumatism, piles, heart disease, and injury to nose, head, and back, but the claim was rejected on the ground of no ratable disability shown, the Bureau holding that here was no pathological connection between said injuries and appellant's insanity.

The evidence filed in the Bureau clearly shows that the soldier was thrown from his horse while in the service, his head injured, his nose crushed, and his back injured, and that he was treated in the hospital while in the service for malarial fever and at another time for remittent fever.

The proof shows that when thrown from his horse his nose was crushed, his head bruised, and he so badly hurt that at first he was thought to have been killed, but recovered and complained a great deal of his head and back having been hurt by the fall, and that he has suffered with his head and back ever since, and become insane and been confined in a lunatic asylum.

The soldier has no means of support except his pension of \$12 a month, and has to be watched and attended to all the time by members of his family, and is a great burden to them.

In view of the soldier's service of nearly three years, and of the great probability that his insanity is the result of the injury to his head and back by reason of the fall from his horse, an increase of his pension from \$12 to \$30 seems just and proper.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended when amended as follows:

In line 8 strike out the word "fifty" and insert in lieu thereof the word "thirty."

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